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ABSTRACT

The present invention discloses a method for therapeutically treating mammals, including but not limited to humans, to increase the relative insulin producing performance of endogenous pancreatic β -cells and to cause differentiation of pancreatic epithelial cells into insulin producing β -cells. Oral administration a DP IV inhibitor causes the active form of GLP-1 to be preserved longer under physiological conditions. The extended presence of GLP-1, in particular in the pancreatic tissue facilitates differentiation and regeneration of the β -cells already present that are in need of repair. These repaired insulin producing cells can contribute to the correction and maintenance of normal physiological glycemic levels.

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